

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the title of the application as follows:

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DETECTING THE VALIDITY OF AND  
~~RECOVERING~~ CONFIGURATION DATA

Page 7, please rewrite the paragraph commencing at line 1, as follows:

The computer system 2 further includes a mass storage device 14 for storing an operating system 16, an update utility 29, an update file 31, and other application programs 30. The update utility 29 contains program code for updating an existing version of the BIOS 11 to an updated version with update code in the update file 31. The update utility 29 is launched from the mass storage device 14 on the CPU 4 which executes code for updating the BIOS 11 with the update code. Upon launching the update utility 29 the update file 31 is loaded into the RAM 8. In one embodiment, the updated BIOS code in the update file 31 may include a layout checksum 59, which is a computed value representing an updated hardware configuration or layout of the configuration data stored in the NVRAM 12 of the computer system 2. In another embodiment, the update file 31 may include updated configuration data describing the hardware configuration of the computer system 2. The update[[d]] utility 29 and the update ~~code~~ file 31 will be described in greater detail ~~below~~ with respect to FIGS. 5-6 below.

Pages 8-9, please rewrite the paragraph commencing at page 8, line 24, as follows:

The setup control database 50 includes a Handles column 51 which lists numbers assigned to each of the configurable hardware devices in the computer system 2. As is known to those skilled in the art, a handle is a token, typically a pointer, that points a memory location. Each handle in the setup control database 50 points to memory addresses in the NVRAM 12 for each of the configurable hardware devices. The memory addresses for each of the devices are shown in Map Position column 56. The setup control database 50 further includes a Setup Question column 52 which lists the configurable hardware devices for the computer system 2. For example, in the setup control database 50 [[if]] of FIG. 2A, the configurable hardware devices are a boot device 52A, a serial port 52B, and a USB keyboard 52C.

Page 11, please rewrite the paragraph commencing at page 11, line 5, as follows:

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the layout checksum 58 may be computed as a hash value generated from the records stored in the setup control database 50. For example, the layout checksum 58 may be generated from the values in the Handles column 51 and the Map Position column 56 in the setup control database 50. ~~Inventors—you indicated in the disclosure meeting that you would provide an example algorithm for calculating a hash value. Please provide this algorithm.~~ It should be understood that methods for computing hash values from data records ~~[[is]]~~ are known to those skilled in the art and that other methods for computing the layout checksum 58 may also be utilized without departing from the scope of the present invention.

Pages 15-16, please rewrite the paragraph commencing at page 15, line 22, as follows:

For example, as shown in the setup control database 50 in FIG. 2A, the serial port 52B has a current map position of byte 70, bits 4-6 (70:4-6) and a current setup value of 2, which may indicate, for example, that the serial port is currently assigned the second communications port (i.e., COM 2) in the computer system 2. In this example, the serial port 52B also has a map position of byte 71, bits 0-3 (~~83:0-3~~) (71:0-3) in the updated configuration data with a default setup value of 1 as shown in the setup control database 60 of FIG. 2B. Since the current map position for the serial port 52B is not the same as the updated map position, the update utility 29 copies the current setup value for the serial port 52B from byte 52, bits 4-6 in the NVRAM 12 (represented in binary number format as 010 in FIG. 3A) to the updated map position of byte 71, bits 0-3 in the NVRAM 12 (represented in binary number format as 0010 in FIG. 3C). Thus, the current setup for the serial port 52B is recovered into the updated configuration data for the NVRAM 12. The operational flow then continues from operation 516 to operation 518.